

TO OFFERORS

SUBJECT: Midrange Procurement, Request for Offer (RFO)5-02948/352 for Pre-Phase A Studies of Scientific Instrumentation Concepts for the Next Generation Space Telescope (NGST)

You are invited to submit an offer to NASA/Goddard Space Flight Center (GSFC) for the acquisition of Pre-Phase A Studies of Scientific Instrumentation Concepts for the Next Generation Space Telescope (NGST) as described in Attachment A, Statement of Work of the enclosed solicitation/ model contract. Ten (10) copies of the requested information shall be submitted along with five (5) original signed copies of the attached model contract. (Offerors should also provide 2 electronic copies of the proposal.) Please note that this solicitation is available over the World Wide Web through the NASA Home Page. The URL address for NASA business opportunities is <http://procurement.nasa.gov/EPS/date.html>. The address for this solicitation is <http://procurement.nasa.gov/EPS/GSFC/Synopses/RFO5-02948-352/synopsis.html>. Your attention to the NGST Project web-site (<http://ngst.gsfc.nasa.gov>) is also suggested.

The purpose of this procurement is to elicit innovative concepts from all areas of the astronomical and industrial communities for NGST scientific instrumentation that enhances scientific return and may ultimately influence or drive system-level architecture. Alternate designs which meet the core science requirements or additional instruments which have a strong likelihood of providing unique scientific results are encouraged. Proposed concepts may range from individual instruments to the full complement of integrated instruments. The portion of the NGST which will be the focus of this procurement is the Integrated Scientific Instrument Module (ISIM) which will contain all optics after the secondary mirror, including possible deformable mirrors, beamsplitters, filters, spectrometers, detectors, detector electronics, and the associated support and thermal systems including active cooling if needed and those parts of the support systems that would be external to the ISIM itself, such as a radiator.

As noted in the attached instructions, GSFC intends to issue multiple awards for this procurement. The expectation is that there will be a total of approximately 5 contractors selected for award of a basic contract with an option for additional effort in the event that the concepts show continuing value for study. Although the total budget available for all awards is \$ 750,000, individual awards may be for amounts of greater or less than the \$ 150,000 average, depending on the nature of the proposal.

All responsible sources may submit an offer which shall be considered by the agency. Participation in this procurement is open to all categories of organizations: industry, educational institutions, other nonprofit organizations, NASA centers, Federally Funded Research and Development Centers (FFRDCs) and other Government agencies. All proposals from non-US institutions or involving non-US institutions on the team, will undergo the same evaluation and selection process as those originating in the United States. For those proposals selected with some or all non-US participation, NASA will arrange with the sponsoring agencies for participation on a cooperative, no exchange of funds basis, in

which NASA and the sponsoring agencies will each bear the cost of discharging its separate responsibilities, including travel and subsistence for its own personnel.

The Office of Federal Procurement Policy has granted NASA/GSFC the authority to conduct a pilot test of the new MidRange Procurement Procedures for contract actions, other than construction and Architecture & Engineering (A&E), the aggregate amount of which is greater than the small purchases limitation and not more than \$2,000,000 in basic value exclusive of options, which as combined do not exceed \$10,000,000.

The format used for this solicitation is in accordance with NASA's new MidRange Procurement procedures and it is intended to reduce the amount of time, effort and paperwork required to process such procurements. Therefore, it is less comprehensive than the standard solicitation packages issued by this Center. If you are familiar with the standard format, you are encouraged to submit with your proposal any comments you may have on this simplified version. For information on NASA's MidRange Procurement Pilot Test Program, see <http://procure.msfc.nasa.gov/midrange/pilotpgm.html>.

Please read the enclosed solicitation carefully, particularly the instructions and evaluation criteria contained in the Request for Offer part of the solicitation. Failure to comply with these instructions could result in your proposal being considered unacceptable. Your offer must have an acceptance period of not less than 120 days.

Written questions regarding this RFO should be submitted to the Contracting Officer no later than October 1, 1997. Written responses will be provided to all offerors. Offerors should note that while the RFO does provide for a place to discuss deviations and exceptions, the presence of deviations and exceptions may preclude award based on initial offers. **Note that 5 original signed copies of the entire proposed contract must accompany each proposal. If the Government makes awards based on initial offers then, these five copies of the contract will be signed by the Contracting Officer and the contract will be binding at that time.** *Therefore, offerors are encouraged to raise these concerns/issues as soon as possible to allow time for their resolution **prior** to the receipt of offers.*

Offers are due no later than 1:30 p.m. EDT October 17, 1997, in the Bid Room located at NASA/GSFC, Code 213.2, Bldg. 17, Room S142, Greenbelt Road, Greenbelt, MD 20771. Proposals received after this time will be treated as late in accordance with FAR 52.215-10, Late Submissions, Modifications, and Withdrawals of Proposals.

I am the sole point of contact concerning this solicitation; please contact me at (301) 286-8237 or by facsimile at (301) 286-1779 with any inquiries. For written comments, you may use my E-mail address of Gifford.P.Moak.1@gsfc.nasa.gov. For identification purposes, all communications regarding this RFO should include the above solicitation number. Your interest in NASA/GSFC requirements is appreciated.

SIGNED

Gifford P. Moak
Contracting Officer